91. The sanitation of the Challai Bazaar.

Mr. S. Ganpathi Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) said that his ground had been mostly traversed by Mr. S. N. Krishna Iyer. He would therefore mention pointedly a few requirements of the Challai Bazaar. There should be two latrines in the Challai Bazaar. The drains should be flushed twice daily. Though it was reported that flushing *was* being done, the fact was otherwise. During the hot months, *i. e.* from Dhanu to Medom, the roads should be watered. The lights were at present put out at 11 P. M. even in dark nights. They should continue to burn till day-break. The Challai Bazaar was giving enough of money in the shape of house-tax, and with that one item, it should be possible to do all the things suggested by him.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be communicated to the Town Improvement Committee of Trivandrum.

92. The need for reorganising the older Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. C. Sankara Menon, B. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) offered, on behalf of the non-official Members of the Quilon Town Improvement Committee, their sincere thanks for the encouragement given by the Government to the cause of local self-government in the State. Twenty years ago, when the Committees were ushered into existence, only five were created; but today there were nineteen Town Improvement Committees working in the State. All the fourteen additional ones were created during the regime of the present Dewan. In addition to increasing the number of Committees, their powers had also been enlarged. All the older towns and two of the new towns were given the privilege of electing their own representatives on the Committees. The Government had also given a guarantee to continue the grants now made to the Committees for a period of five years. The above concessions and privileges were granted to them as a result of the representations made during the previous sittings of the Assembly. He then begged permission to say a word or two in regard to the adverse remarks against the Government made by a Member on Saturday last. He considered it a duty that he owed to himself, to the Assembly and to the Government. The Assembly—which gave to the Committees the privileges and concessions mentioned above, which did away with the pernicious system of *viruthi* service and saved many a poor family from ruin, which abolished that oppressive system of taxation in kind at great sacrifice of revenue, which gave to the children of a large section of the people, and by no means an unimportant section, a legal status, which gave the people the benefits of free primary education, which had also been steadily elevating the condition of the untouchable and unapproachable classes of people, and which further aimed at broad-basing the administration by associating the people in it and making the bounds of their freedom wider—had been characterised by the Agasteeswaram Member as a "sham". If that *was* a sham, the Member said that he was proud to play any part, even that of a buffoon, in that sham. This institution, born on the auspicious occasion of His Highness the Maha Raja's birthday, christened after his own happy star and nurtured by its chief nurses, the present Dewan and his predecessors, had now been brought to its age of discrimination. He, therefore, felt extremely sorry that the Agasteeswaram Member should have behaved as he did. He was sorry not only because his remarks were uncalled for and untrue; but also because they were certain to cause acute pain to His Highness, who was the parent of the institution, and to the Dewan, its chief nurse, not to speak of the intense sorrow felt by the other Members of the Assembly who heard them. The issues of the Government Gazette during the last five or six years would be a standing monument of the care and anxious consideration which the representations made in the Assembly were receiving at the hands of the Government. He therefore assured the Government, both on his own behalf and on behalf of most of the other Members of the Assembly whom he had consulted, that they did *not* share the views and sentiments expressed by the Agasteeswaram Member. On the other hand, they were satisfied that the Government had all along tried to increase the usefulness of the Assembly and also to raise its tone. All that he would submit was that, for the *healthy* growth of such an institution, pruning, as in the case of a plant, was absolutely necessary.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly